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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


FOR THE YEAR 1945.

KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.

Thos. Wall & Sons Ltd., Printers, "Observer" Office, Wallgate, Wigan.

Presented to the District Council

October 8th 1946



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URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health: KENNETH FRASER (part-time). Salary £150

Sanitary Inspector: F. BUTTERFIELD (part-time). Salary £288

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1945								8,185
Number of Inhabited Houses:—								
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1945, according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,593
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£33,691
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£129

Social Conditions.—The township of Orrell is a residential district in an agricultural area. The working class houses are built along the borders of farm lands. Coal mining and the cotton industry afford chief employment. They are situated outside the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	..	127	..	69	.. 58
		Illegitimate..	..	11	..	2	.. 9
Total		..	..	..	138	..	71 .. 67

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1945 .. 16·8

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Still-births	..	..	..	..	9	..	6 .. 3
Deaths	..	..	..	..	105	..	53 .. 52
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..				..	..	61
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	..				..	..	12·8

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes, or from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	..	..	..	19

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

<i>Disease.</i>							<i>Total.</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
							178

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1				—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1-5				—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10				—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
10-15				—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20				3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25				—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35				—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45				2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55				—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..				—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals				5	2	4	4	2	1	—	—
				7		8		3		—	

<i>Population :—</i>	<i>Per 1,000 of estimated Population.</i>				<i>Maternal Mortality Rate.</i>		
	<i>Death-rate from</i>				<i>Per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate of</i>	
<i>Estimate 1945 :</i>			<i>Tuber-</i>	<i>Death</i>		<i>deaths</i>	
(a) <i>for Birth-</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Crude</i>	<i>culosis of</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>Per</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>under one</i>
<i>rates 8,185.</i>	<i>Birth-</i>	<i>Death-</i>	<i>Respirat'y</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Live &</i>	<i>year per</i>
(b) <i>for Death-</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>rate.</i>	<i>System.</i>	<i>Cancer.</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still-</i>	<i>1,000 Live</i>
<i>rates 8,185.</i>					<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>	<i>births.</i>
Mean of five							
years 1940-44	17·8	12·4	0·37	1·46	1·17	1·11	63
Year 1944 ..	20·3	13·6	0·35	2·51	5·88	5·58	58
Year 1945 ..	16·8	12·8	0·36	2·32	Nil	Nil	50
Increase or decrease in 1945							
on 5 years' aver. 1940-44	—1·0	+0·4	—0·01	+0·86	—1·17	—1·11	—13
Previous year	—3·5	—0·8	+0·01	—0·19	—5·88	—5·58	— 8

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL ROAD.

September, 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1945. Population (Census 1931) 6,949 ; Registrar General's estimate mid-1945 8,185.

BIRTHS.—Live births numbered the same as 1940, 138, 71 males and 67 females ; 1944, 170 ; rate 16·8 per 1,000 ; 1944, 20·39. Illegitimate births, 11 ; 1944, 5. The mean average birth-rate for the past 10 years was 16·9. Still births 9, same as 1944. The births exceeded the deaths by 33. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past 10 years was 39.

DEATHS.—There were 105 deaths registered, 53 males and 52 females ; 1944, 114 : rate 12·8 per 1,000, 1944 13·6. They occurred 60 in the East Ward and 45 in the West Ward. There was 1 road traffic death, 1 suicide, and 1 from other violent cause. Eight post-mortems were held, 4 with, and 4 without inquests : 36 of the deaths occurred in Institutions ; 1944, 33. The mean average death-rate for the past 10 years was 12·47.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of deaths among children under 12 months of age was 7, 6 males and 1 female, occurring 3 in the East Ward and 4 in the West Ward : 1944, 10 ; rate per 1,000 live births 50 ; 1944, 58. The mean average for the past 10 years was 64. The percentage of infant deaths to total deaths was 6·6 ; 1944, 8·7. Two of the deaths occurred in Institutions. Four of the deaths were first-born children, 2 second, and 1 fourth. Three of the deaths occurred within one week of birth. In only one case were the parents sole occupants of the home. The causes of death were : 4 Premature Birth, 2 Broncho Pneumonia, and 1 Capillary Bronchitis.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.
England and Wales	46	46	49	49	59	55
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	54	52	58	59	71	61
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	43	44	46	46	56	54
London Administrative County	53	61	58	60	68	50

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942	1941.	1940.	1939.	Mean.
Under 1 year ..	7	10	5	12	12	10	12	9.7
1 and under 2..	—	1	1	1	2	1	1	1.0
2 to 5 years ..	—	2	—	—	1	3	1	1.0
5 to 15 years ..	1	1	2	—	2	2	3	1.5
15 to 25 years ..	1	3	—	3	5	2	1	2.1
25 to 45 years ..	8	8	11	8	5	11	13	9.1
45 to 65 years ..	32	40	31	22	19	31	14	27.0
65 years and upwards ..	56	49	58	56	40	57	63	54.1
	105	114	108	102	86	117	108	105.5

There were 8 deaths among people under 15 years of age ; 1944, 14 ; over 60 years of age, 66 ; 1944, 65 ; between 70 and 80 years of age, 38 ; 1944, 25 ; and between 80 and 90 years of age, 15 ; 1944, 12.

INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	<i>England and Wales.</i> 1929.
Premature Births ..	57%	10%	40%	25%	41.6%	20%	18.63%
Congenital Defects ..	0%	30%	20%	33.3%	25%	30%	5.20%

VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED.

	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.
Under 1 week ..	3	3	1	5	7	2
„ 3 weeks ..	—	3	—	2	—	2
„ 1 month ..	3	6	1	7	7	4
1 to 3 months ..	2	3	2	—	2	3
3 to 6 months ..	2	1	2	3	2	2
6 to 9 months ..	—	—	—	2	1	1
9 to 12 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	10	5	12	12	10

AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>	<i>Week.</i>		<i>Months.</i>				
	1	1	2	3	5		
First born	2	—	—	1	1		
Second born	1	—	1	—	—		
Fourth born	—	1	—	—	—		

There were no deaths from the Zymotic Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.
Scarlet Fever ..	18	21	30	15	6	29
Whooping Cough .	4	16	21	19	33	12
Diphtheria ..	2	—	1	9	4	20
Erysipelas ..	1	4	4	2	2	1
Measles ..	142	7	165	28	33	199
Pneumonia ..	11	11	10	6	10	23
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	1	—	—
	178	61	233	80	90	285

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—We began the year with 31 cases on the register, and finished with 33, 18 males and 15 females. New cases for the year numbered 7, 5 males and 2 females, occurring 4 in the East Ward and 3 in the West Ward. One of the cases was not confirmed. Their ages ranged from 9 to 40 years. Sanatorium treatment was provided for 8 cases. The deaths numbered 3, 2 males and 1 female; rate 0·36 per 1,000, 1944 0·35; case incidence 4·0 per 1,000, 1944 3·71.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—The number on the register at the end of the year showed a reduction of 10, 27, 13 males and 14 females. Eight new cases were recorded, 4 males and 4 females, occurring 5 in the East Ward, and 3 in the West Ward, aged 9 months to 25 years. One of the notifications was not confirmed. Institutional treatment was received by 2 cases. Case incidence was 3·29 per 1,000; 1944 4·43. There was a slight decrease in the incidence of those diseases, 7·33 per 1,000; 1944 8·15; and the death-rate was 0·36; 1944 0·47.

Respiratory Diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for 17 deaths; 1944, 22. Bronchitis 5, Pneumonia 10, other respiratory diseases 2. Four of the deaths from Bronchitis occurred among people over 70 years of age; death-rate 2·19 per 1,000, 1944 2·63; percentage to total deaths 17·1.

Pneumonia.—Eleven notifications were received, 9 males and 2 females, occurring 4 in the East Ward and 7 in the West Ward; case incidence 1·34, England and Wales 0·87; death-rate 1·22 per 1,000, 1944 1·31.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows:—

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Diphth- eria.	Ery- sipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.
Under 12 months	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	2 ..	9
1-2 years ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	23
2-3 „ ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	17
3-4 „ ..	1 ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	1 ..	17
4-5 „ ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	26
5-10 „ ..	12 ..	1 ..	1 ..	— ..	1 ..	48
10-15 „ ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	1
15-20 „ ..	— ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	1
20-25 „ ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
25-35 „ ..	1 ..	1 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
35-45 „ ..	— ..	2 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
45-65 „ ..	— ..	5 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—
65 and upwards	— ..	— ..	— ..	1 ..	— ..	—
	18 ..	11 ..	2 ..	1 ..	4 ..	142

They were distributed in the wards as follows:—

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>East Ward.</i>	<i>West Ward.</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	11	7
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	2	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1	—
Measles	..	..	..	111	31
Pneumonia	..	..	..	4	7
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1	1
				130	48

Scarlet Fever occurred throughout the year, 5 cases in the first quarter, 6 in the second, 2 in the third, and 5 in the fourth quarter. Two cases occurred in one household. Eighteen cases were reported, 8 males and 10 females, distributed 11 in the East Ward and 7 in the West Ward; 15 cases were among children of school-going age; case incidence 2·19 per 1,000, England and Wales 1·89.

Measles appears in epidemic form in most towns in England at intervals of 2 or at most 3 years. In Orrell throughout the year 142 cases were recorded; 1943 165; 1940 199. The epidemic was of a mild type, concentrated in the first half of the year: 65 cases in the first quarter and 75 in the second. 111 cases occurred in the East Ward and 31 in the West Ward, 80 males and 42 females: 49 cases were among children of school-going age. In one household 3 cases occurred, notified on the same day. In 19 homes 2 cases were notified. In three of these the cases were notified on the same day. In 16 homes the second case was notified in 5 to 17 days after the first. The average interval was 11 days. In all but one case the first notification was the senior in years. Case incidence 17·34 per 1,000; England and Wales 11·67.

Whooping Cough accounted for 4 cases, 2 in each ward, 1 male and 3 females. Their ages ranged from 3 months to 6 years, 2 being under 12 months. Case incidence 0·48 per 1,000; England and Wales 1·64.

Diphtheria.—Two notifications were received, 1 in each ward. One of the cases was over 15 years of age. Neither were immunised. Case incidence 0·24 per 1,000; England and Wales 0·46.

Immunisation against Diphtheria started in the district in July, 1942; 1,071 children completed the course to the end of 1945; 52 per cent. up to 4 years of age and 54 per cent. 5 to 15 years of age.

Cancer and Malignant Diseases.—Returns show: 19 deaths; 1944 21; occurring 11 in the East Ward and 8 in the West Ward; 10 males and 9 females; rate 2.32 per 1,000, 1944 2.51; percentage to total deaths 18.09, 1944 18.42; 36 per cent. of the deaths were among people over 65 years of age. The mean average number of deaths for the past 10 years was 12.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no hospital or nursing home situated within the area. The district was well served by general and specialised hospitals. Emergency cases received prompt attention. Ambulance service was satisfactory. Infectious cases requiring isolation were accommodated. 55 per cent. of maternity cases were treated in hospitals or nursing homes.

Water Supply.—The source is an old shaft situated near Gathurst Road. It is a good, potable water, ample, and its quality remains constant, as proved by monthly chemical and bacteriological examinations. The water is supplied direct to the houses by public mains. On two occasions bursts in the mains reduced the level in the shaft, but the waste was quickly restored. The mains were flushed regularly to remove "ochre" deposit. Preparations for a scheme to aereate and filtrate the supply is under consideration.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—No action taken.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Improvement for cleansing the settling tank at the outfall, was effected, and a new ventilation shaft installed. Periodical flushings were carried out.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 43 privy middens with 69 closets serving houses considered for demolition. Six pail closets serve a group of houses remote from our sewer. Arrangements are in hand to remedy these conditions.

Public Cleansing.—A regular collection of refuse was maintained by motor by day, and deposited at the Council's tip. Arrangements are being made for a new tipping ground.

Schools.—There was no closure for infectious disease. One school was closed for a week in February due to a breakdown in the heating system. Influenzal colds in the last two months of the year caused absenteeism.

Offensive Trades.—There were no trades under this group, or any premises under the Rag Flock Acts, 1911, and 1928.

Shops Act, 1934, and Public Health Acts, 1936.—There was no action taken. Conditions were satisfactory.

Factory and Workshops Acts.—There were 32 workshops on the register. Periodical inspections found conditions satisfactory. One factory, a cotton spinning mill, reopened after closure.

Housing Statistics.—There were no new houses erected during the year. The distribution of the population per house was 3·1 persons, and the density 5 persons per acre. The number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects was 199, requiring 345 inspections. Of these 141 dwelling houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Defects in 115 dwelling houses were remedied by the owners, requiring the serving of 10 statutory notices. There was 1 case of overcrowding reported, and relieved, involving 16 persons. There is a long list of applicants for fresh houses. Priority of claims will be arranged by a system of points. A housing scheme of 44 temporary aluminium type bungalows is in progress on the Green Hey estate, and 72 permanent two and three bedroom brick built houses on the Rivers Estate, off Moor Road.

Negotiations are pending for a further 15 acres of land for the erection of 156 permanent houses. The chief defects found were: Damp walls, defective roofs, defective sanitary fittings, and wastage of water.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.—There were 17 dairy farms housing approximately 200 cows. The number of cow keepers (including the dairy farms) was 17. Dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers) numbered 29. Inspections made periodically numbered 68. General cleanliness in the shippens and their surroundings was observed. Several minor building defects were remedied. Samples of fresh milk were examined and proved satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION ACT.—Food condemned as unfit for human consumption was as follows: 3 lbs. stewed steak, 24 ozs. pork luncheon meat, 4 lbs. meat and vegetable ration, 66 ox tongues, 6 lbs. chopped ham, a 15 lbs. ham, and 168 lbs. of sultanas.

DOMESTIC HELPS.—The Women's Voluntary Service continued this work on a voluntary basis. There are 38 members enrolled, 9 of whom are leaders. They are allotted districts, and render aid to cases which occur in near proximity to their own homes. This neighbourly service is much appreciated in the district.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.—Erection of new houses, aeration and filtration of the water supply, and completion to the water carriage system.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1945.

Blocked or Defective W.C's.	4
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	12
Blocked Sewers	1
Blocked and Defective Drains	28
Defective Houses	141
Defective Spouts	6
Houses Disinfected	34
Eradication of Bed Bugs	2
Rats in Houses (number of houses)	4
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) numbered	345
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	232
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated	206

Requiring 124 informal, and 10 statutory notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	1944.	1945.
No. of ashpits empties during the year	231	117
„ dustbins emptied during the year	67,626	65,955
„ loads removed during the year	1,229	1,098
„ privy closets in the district	69	69
„ pail closets in the district	6	6
„ privy ashpits in the district	43	43
„ dry ashpits in the district	6	6
„ dustbins in the district	2,560	2,560
„ fresh water-closets	2,609	2,609

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

